



Park Street 1964 – 242.13

c.44.6 : Park Street

1900

1900 10 25

An epidemic of disease has broken out in Cambridge which is of such serious importance as regards the public health that we should not be discharging a duty we owe to our readers if we did not draw attention to it, notwithstanding the reticence of the medical authority, which to say the least is inexplicable. The Medical Officer of Health has absolutely declined to take the press into his confidence. That diphtheria is prevalent is beyond dispute, nor is it confined to Cambridge for rumour is that deaths have occurred at Chesterton. The death of certain children attending Park Street mixed infants school first brought the matter under the attention of the local medical authorities. Several deaths have taken place which are directly attributed to the disease.

1900 11 01

We have received an official statement from Mr Alderman T. Hyde, respecting the outbreak of diphtheria at Cambridge. 'Last Friday I stated that we knew of 12 cases of the disease. Since then we have had a rather unexpected increase which made a total of 35 today. There have been four deaths from the disease. With a few doubtful exceptions all cases have been proved to have originated in connection with the Park Street Infants School, although so far investigations have shown no reason for supposing that the actual building on the site has had anything to do with the causation of the disease. No expense or labour will be grudged in the endeavour to stamp out the disease. It is thought advisable not to allow children to attend meetings in public halls during the present conditions'.

1901 01 01

The Cambridge Medical Officer of Health reported on the recent outbreak of diphtheria. He had inspected Park Street School and could find no cause for complaint except as to the odours arising from a cesspool. Alderman Dalton said the present school might be perfectly healthy as workshops, or a Sunday School or an evening institute. There was a great difference between children assembling for a couple of hours in one day of the week and living in the place the whole of their time. The

question should be decided whether the school should be carried on under the present unsatisfactory conditions or whether new buildings should be erected.

1920

1925 10 21

A pleasant little function took place at the Park Street School when the Bishop of Ely paid a visit to see the improvements carried out to the babies' room to accommodate a further 35 babies.

1928 07 18

The future of the Bell public house, Botolph Lane and the Plume and Feathers, Park Street, Cambridge was considered by the Licensing Committee. The Bell was difficult for police to supervise. It had no downstairs accommodation for the tenant and meals had to be taken in the smoke room during closing hours. The renewal was refused. The Plume and Feathers had little accommodation and was frequently congested with a few customers. It had been done up and the yards had been covered over. The trade had gone up and was better than the Maypole.

1930

1932 02 23

Many people will regret the passing of 'Lame Walter' - James Walter Mansfield - of Dove House, Park Street. He retired in 1918 after about 40 years of cab driving. He was a well-known figure in later years with his tricycle and dog, much liked for his cheery disposition. He leaves three sons and three daughters. 32 02 23, photo 23a

1935 01 17

The new A.D.C. Theatre in Park Street was opened by Miss Ellaline Terriss replacing the one destroyed by fire 14 months ago. It was a wonder it had not burnt down every time the stage was used years ago, as there was no fire-proof curtain, the theatre was lit entirely by gas and the proscenium made of painted canvas stretched on wood batons, reminisced E. Mellish Clark 35 01 17

1938 02 22

House clearance Saxton Street, Gothic St area & Park Street - 38 03 22b

1938 10 27

Park Street was a very congested area in the heart of Cambridge and the houses were upwards of 100 years old. The brickwork was weather worn and crumbled, the walls were damp, natural light was poor and the staircases narrow, winding and dark. The ceiling plaster was cracked and liable to collapse and the floor boards were weak, springy and worm-eaten. In some cases there was no copper or sink and no proper food store. Some had no water supply. They were unfit for human occupation and should be demolished, an Inquiry was told. But residents objected 38 10 27 & a also Saxon Street

1950

1954 03 15

Properties in Corn Exchange Street may be demolished to increase parking space in the Lion Yard. It could then accommodate another 60 cars. This would bring in an increased revenue of about £1,360 per annum, but be offset by a £1,286 loss on rental from the demolished premises. Councillors were considering the early provision of a multi-deck park but until the Minister had made a decision on the development plan it would be impossible even to proceed with sketch plans. Sites have also been cleared in the Park Street area, but in view of the extremely poor access they decided to take no action to form a car park in that area.

1956 02 28

Demolition is taking place in Corn Exchange Street as part of the final scheme for the redevelopment of the area. Although final plans are as yet unsettled empty offices are being demolished and the land will be used as an extension to the Lion Car Park. A number of dilapidated houses in Park Street that were condemned before the war are also being pulled down. 56 02 28b & c

1956 04 14

One of the old properties just demolished in Park Street, Cambridge – no.60 – has a famous connection. Back in 1853 a young schoolmaster called Charles Haddon Spurgeon who lived there put an advertisement in the paper saying he intended to take six young gentlemen as day pupils. Teaching would include arithmetic, geometry and mensuration, scripture, Latin and Greek at a cost of £5 per annum. He became an eloquent preacher and, after doing great work in Waterbeach, was called to London where he addressed a gathering of 23,000 people at the Crystal Palace. 56 04 14c

1956 10 16

Councillors say that multi-storey car parks should be provided at Lion Yard, Saxon Street, Park Street and New Square and 170 cars should be parked on the site of the existing police flats at Parkside. But traffic congestion in Cambridge has become so acute that 'No Waiting' restrictions should be imposed in the central area and King Street made one-way. 56 10 16a

1957 11 20

Park Street car park inquiry at Shire Hall – 57 11 20b & c

1958 03 27

Permission has been granted for the construction of a car park for 146 vehicles in Park Street, Cambridge. The site ranges from cottage and three-storey houses to warehouses and sheds. When financial conditions permit a multi-storey building will be constructed, probably with shops on the ground floor. A new access road will be made from Bridge Street along the present line of Round Church Street. 58 03 27a

1958 09 27

Parking facilities in Cambridge were inadequate, said the Chief Constable. With more than 600 vehicles passing over Magdalene Bridge each hour, Park Street was a convenient site for a car park. Saxon Street park had been finished last week, work on King Street had not started and the Parkside car park was only a small one. Park Street was the one that should have first priority as a surface and multi-deck car park. But a thatched house in Clement Street built about 1700 should not be destroyed by 'this cement desert'. 58 09 27 b c d

1960's The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date

1960

1962 02 20

The city council want a three-storey car park in King Street, between Malcolm Street and Manor Street. There would be space for 260 cars together with a filling station and a maximum of nine shops. It would form part of the pattern of perimeter car parks with another in Park Street. There would be an inner 'control zone' and an outer area for car parking administered by meters. This would accommodate over 400 more vehicles and relieve congestion. Motorists were reluctant to use parks away from the city centre as they wanted to get as near as possible to their places of work, an Inquiry was told. 62 02 20 & a 62 03 22a

1962 09 05

Bulldozers and heavy earth-moving machinery have been followed by a fleet of lorries as clearance work starts on the site of the new multi-deck car park in Park Street. It should be completed within nine months and will form an integral part of the new parking meter system for which the City

Council is to seek Ministry approval. Councillors are still waiting a decision on their earlier application for another multi-storey car park about 200 yards away in King Street 62 09 05

1963 04 03

The new car park at the rear of Queen Anne Terrace has now been completed and is open for public use, free of charge. It adjoins the car park at the new swimming pool which can accommodate 67 cars and has been constructed as part of the council's policy for traffic control in anticipation of the Minister's approval of the parking meter scheme. The multi-storey car park in Park Street should be in use by the middle of the year and a decision is awaited on an application for another in King Street 63 04 03

1963 10 10

The City Council is to buy a house and premises at Clement Place to provide room for extensions to the multideck car park at Park Street. 63 10 10

1963 10 28

Park Street car park opens – 63 10 28a

1964 05 21

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Park Street – 64 05 21

1964 06 18

Meters fail to pay new Park Street car park losses – 64 06 18

1964 06 30

A car park was needed on the West side of the river to help clear Queen's Road and they should consider an underground car park at the Backs, councillors heard. Park Street was a mistake because it was too near the city centre but Coe Fen was one of the best places for a surface car park. Queen Anne Terrace was a marvellous site as it could have a basement, three or four storeys of flats and a roof garden restaurant. There would be a mini-bus to get shoppers into the centre which meant the Lion Yard would be used more by people who came to park for the day. 64 06 30

1964 11 27

Controversial plans for an inner relief road have been deferred. The general line of the road had been known since 1950. It would be an alternative to Magdalene Bridge and give better access to Park Street car park. But people along the proposed cannot sell their houses because of the uncertainty. If the Press had not reported council meetings they would not have known anything about it. 64 10 09f Buildings in Jordan's Yard, Round Church Street and Bridge Street should be acquired by council for preservation and extension Park Street car park – 64 11 27i

1964 11 28

Cambridge's Old Church Schools date back to 1700 when school for poor children were started by clergy. After the Education Act of 1870 introduced compulsory education Newnham School was opened in 1872 and followed in 1875 by Park Street for girls and infants. St Barnabas, Sturton Street, York Street, Catharine Street & Ross Street schools followed. St Matthews is the newest – and the most modern of all schools in Cambridge - 64 11 28

1968 11 01

Problems of multi-deck car park – photo Park Street and Lion Yard – 68 11 01b

1970

1970 12 31

St Andrew's Junior, Park St Infants & Junior and St Paul's infants and junior schools must go, Alderman says – 70 12 31

1975 05 09

Cambridge Union Society's historic debating chamber, scene of heated exchanges between Britain's top politicians this century, was badly damaged by fire. The blaze spread through part of the floor of the chamber and went up through two floors of the Round Church Street premises. Crowds gathered in Park Street as a 100-foot turntable ladder was swung into place and three pumping appliances arrived on the scene. The main part of the building was not affected by the fire. Teams of undergraduates mounted guard on the building throughout the night 75 05 09

1978 02 14

A County Council report recommends that two old church schools in the centre of Cambridge, Park Street and St Matthew's, should close. It says no school will take more than 60 infants a year; all schools will have nursery classes from three-plus, and that separate infants and junior schools will be merged into one school taking children right up to 11. Catchment zones will be introduced for primary schools. At present Morley Memorial is under a great deal of pressure and children are taught in a rented church hall across a busy road while Sedley Infants and Romsey Junior have empty places.

1978 03 09

Both St Matthews and Park Street schools in Cambridge are housed in high-ceilinged, drab buildings. There are no green playing fields, the playgrounds are cramped and asphalted and Park Street has outside lavatories. But for all this they inspire a great deal of loyalty from parents who see them as small family schools within a community. Both are in the central area and a few years ago found their rolls were dropping. But now there is a definite trend bringing young families back into the city centre terraced houses and they are battling to save the schools from closure.

1978 09 12

Park Street flats, p9

1978 09 25

Protestors against the proposed closure of Park Street School Cambridge stepped up their campaign by marching on the Guildhall. The television commentator and personality, Clive James, who is leading the fight said: "There will be no financial gain from closing the school. The main reason for shutting it seems to be the size of the playground which they say is insufficient for the kids to fulfil themselves". Park Street Residents Association has joined the campaign as they feel much of the community spirit of the area will be lost if the plans go ahead.

1979 07 31

Pubs in and around Cambridge have come in for bitter criticism in a new guide written by two undergraduates. The Rose in Rose Crescent is described as a 'seedy little place in a seedy little street. Gay Cambridge meets there, which says little for their taste'. The Maypole in Park Street is described as a 'grotty little dive hidden rightly under the car park', the Carpenters Arms in Victoria Road is 'without redeeming feature; extremely anti-student clientele who would have beaten us up if they hadn't been so drunk. Dark and spooky'. The Locomotive in Mill Road 'ought to be exorcised, its evil ... the worst pub in Cambridge' while the Midland Tavern is, they say, 'the most notorious pub in town with a reputation for being a centre of vice'. One landlord replied: "It's about time the University made these little boys do some work for their degrees ... they speak too much claptrap

1979 10 18

The Government has stopped the County Council from closing Cambridge's Park Street Primary School because of its 'value to the community'. But plans to close Brunswick Primary School have been approved. This is a great disappointment for parents who campaigned vigorously to keep it open. Nearly £800,000 has been earmarked to convert the buildings into a further education centre. The County will accept the ruling but the number of children attending both schools had dropped and the problems will not go away. Now much harder decisions will have to be made that will affect schools throughout the city.

